

JTW 2017

Introduction to Contemporary Japanese Literature

Professor Tim Cross, Ph. D

<http://www.hum.fukuoka-u.ac.jp/~eng/cross.html>

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1 Course Outline

This course does not give an overview of Japanese literature. Instead it surveys late-Showa short stories and several novels. The course is suitable for students who are interested in examining how literature supports and subverts the idea of national culture. Thematically, attention is given to areas such as history, the family, the body, and sexuality.

Our overall concern is with the question of how literature is implicated in social change. This concern expands beyond consideration of aesthetics decisions between different kinds of stories and different kinds of presentation (Why is the text designed this way? Can we imagine a different form for this text?). We will hopefully be able to read a range of stories and novels as examples of support and critique of the idea of national identity (What should we do about this text?). Close readings of the texts will be our primary mode of advance.

2 Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to compare several of the texts examined in class in terms of a pre-selected theme. This course is an opportunity to enhance your knowledge of modern Japanese literature, across the genres of

short story, novel, autobiography, and non-fiction. This course is designed to develop your ability to read and discuss Japanese literature critically. You will be required to write critically and succinctly about the various genres we examine.

3 Course Assessment

For 2 credits

(1) Weekly Readings, Discussions and Homework 80%

(2) Final Paper 20%

4 Organisation, Attendance and Other Requirements

This course consists of discussions, centred on close readings of literary texts. There is one additional pre-requisite for classroom attendance. You must have completed the weekly reading assignment before class. Classes will generally start with a short quiz; this gives all students the opportunity to demonstrate that they have done the reading homework. If it appears that you have not done the homework, you might have to go home and do the *home* work.

Student attendance will be assessed, strictly following the relevant section of the JTW Rules and Policies:

1 Marks for attendance and participation will be deducted in the case of unauthorized absences and late arrival.

2 Any unauthorized absence will automatically incur a 3% reduction in the student's final mark.

3 Any late arrival (more than five minutes after the start of class) will incur a 1% reduction in the student's final mark.

In the event that you cannot attend class because of sickness or family emergency, please send me an explanatory email before class.

As preparation for the first session, please make a list of questions that outline any areas of interest that you would like to explore in depth in this course.

5 Textbook

Speculative Japan: Outstanding Tales of Japanese Science Fiction and Fantasy

Gene van Troyer and Grania Davis

ISBN-10: 4902075261

Kurodahan Press

6 Communications

Please refer to the front of this handout for my email address. Please regularly check the JTW notice board on the ground floor and fourth floor of the Ryugakusei Centre for any changes that may arise during the semester.

7 Pre-requisites

Apart from the ability to do the required reading in English for homework, none. As English is the language of instruction, this course is structured on the assumption that students have no working knowledge of Japanese. Before registering for this course, Japanese students will be required to demonstrate that they can critically discuss literary texts in English.

PART II

THE SYLLABUS (Tentative and speculative)

Session 1

Course overview, expressions of student interest. Beginnings: Framing audience expectations.

Session 2

Breaking the mould: your homework is reading these links

<http://nobelprize.org/literature/laureates/1968/kawabata-lecture.html>

Session 3

Making sense of literature: new criticism, reader-response criticism, deconstruction, new historical criticism, psychological criticism, feminist criticism.

Session 4

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 5

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 6

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 7

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 8

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 9

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 10

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 11

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 12

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 13

Quiz, questions and answers, student-led discussion of that week's short story.

Session 14

Presentations of final papers.

Session 15

Presentations of final papers.

Please note that this is a tentative schedule, and will definitely be subject to changes. Please regularly check the JTW notice board.

御注意下さい **END OF SYLLABUS**

授業科目 Introduction to Contemporary Japanese Literature

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福岡大学人文学部教授

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テキスト

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